Description: For the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies at Rice University, it was time to expand. As a result of the generosity of more than 400 donors, construction began in December 2012 on the $24.2 million D. Kent and Linda C. Anderson, Robert L. and Jean T. Clarke Center.

The 54,700 square-foot Anderson-Clarke Center accommodates 24 state-of-the-art classrooms, conference rooms, a language center, a freestanding auditorium, and a commons area and terrace for special events. Signature features of Rice’s historic buildings were incorporated into the design including a long, lower structure, a tri-part division of windows and an arched entryway. The facility was also designed to meet newer standards, including the University’s goal for all new buildings to meet or exceed the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) standards for new construction. Since establishing this goal in 2006, Rice University has constructed 10 LEED certified buildings.

Challenges: As an institution that champions sustainability through teaching and research, student initiatives and campus greening efforts, it was important for Rice University’s newest building to incorporate innovative materials from the ground up. Insulation would need to play a key role in reducing energy loads for indoor HVAC and heating equipment inside the building, while also conforming to LEED specifications recycled content. In order to achieve this, Rice University went to Tellepsen Builders.

“Our primary goal was to help Rice University create a sustainable building – one that preserves the natural environment, uses less energy, lasts longer and is more comfortable to be in and around for the student, faculty and alumni,” said Bill Heimann, senior project manager at Tellepsen Builders. “For the Anderson-Clarke Center, we needed to identify a product that would not only meet LEED requirements, but help us stay within the project timeline and budget.”

Solution: Starcraft Interiors selected JM Unfaced R-19 insulation batts® as a key step toward meeting LEED requirements and to help create a healthy indoor environment. Winroc SPI sold more than 118,000 square feet of JM fiberglass batts, which offered additional advantages for installers including less dust and improved handling. The solution proved to be cost effective and time efficient.